



ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC RIM UNIVERSITIES FELLOWS PROGRAM

April 1, 1999

Introduction/Project Purposes: The following responds to a request from the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) for Asia Foundation assistance in developing a fellowship program for its outstanding junior faculty. The intent is to foster deeper understanding of the complexities and richness of Pacific Rim societies and to develop a collegial, scholarly network for collaborative teaching and research in the politics, culture, and economies of the Pacific Rim nations represented in APRU.

Background: APRU's creation in 1997 builds upon a prior series of University Presidents' Conferences, first organized in 1989 by The Asia Foundation and the President of the University of California system, and attended by about two dozen publicly funded universities from Asia and the Pacific. Periodic meetings held subsequently in San Francisco, at Chulalongkorn University, Seoul National University, and the Australian National University underscored interest in fostering the development of a community of university CEOs in Asia and the Pacific Rim. The meetings also emphasized opportunities for increased exchanges, joint projects dealing with regional issues, and shared resources and ideas. With the formation of APRU, the strength of a regional organization can be brought to bear on common concerns of Pacific Rim nations.

The Project: To develop the professional capacity of junior faculty who will be well-informed on the Pacific Rim, the APRU Fellows Program will be organized around an annual summer traveling seminar series to familiarize participants with the sociopolitical, cultural, and economic realities in the region. The series' overarching theme, "The Pacific Rim in the Twenty-First Century", will provide a broad conceptual framework for annual examination of significant, current issues in a given country. Each year's seminar will focus on a sub-theme and will complement scholarly discussions with synchronized field experiences in three APRU member countries.

The series will be initiated with the selection of a first cadre of young faculty by APRU's member institutions, which can each select one participant. Given its long history and presence in Asia, The Asia Foundation will be responsible for program development and overall administration, in collaboration with APRU. Contours of the 1999 seminar are as follows:

- *Sub-Theme:* The focus of the 1999 program will be "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Asian Economic Downturn". That is, the seminar will consider the social, economic, and political consequences of the financial turmoil of the past two years.

- *Destinations:* Three APRU countries - the United States, Japan, and Thailand.
- *Duration/Timing:* The program will span approximately 23 days, including travel time, with a week's actual program time spent in each country. The program will occur from July 24 to August 15, 1999.
- *Administration:* Asia Foundation staff will provide overall coordination and ensure thematic coherence of the program, consulting with the APRU Secretariat in advance to identify appropriate sub-themes. An APRU member institution in each country visited will serve as organizing program host for that particular venue.
- *Format and Process:* The activities in each country will include a mix of academic seminars and field visits illustrative of the seminar topics under discussion. The seminars themselves, while focusing on the program's sub-theme, will be an opportunity to explore research and teaching topics for longer-term academic discourse and exchanges, and to encourage ongoing professional linkages and collaboration among participating APRU faculty. The field visits will lend a direct, experiential dimension to the program. The English language will be the primary medium for discussion among the APRU Fellows.
- *Substance:* The program in each of the three countries visited will be part of an integrated whole. The emphasis will be multi-disciplinary, allowing for the pursuit of diverse professional interests through examination of current socio-cultural, political, or economic issues from various disciplinary perspectives. This approach will lend itself to program coherence across countries, as well as within each country visited. Seminar discussions and field visits will be organized around this year's sub-theme: "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Asian Economic Downturn." This program will enable political scientists and public policy specialists, economists and business academics, sociologists and educators to explore political, business and economic, social concerns in public, private, and non-governmental, settings. An illustrative program outline is attached.
- *Products:* Specific interests will be identified after the APRU Fellows are selected. The participating Fellows, representing different disciplines, will be divided into designated sub-groups during the visits to each country. This clustering will maximize interaction and professional dialogue as the participants are introduced to resources and specialists in several sectors. Three-person research teams, constituted at the end of the seminar, will produce research papers within six months thereafter. These papers will be published in an APRU Working Papers Series as a program product.
- *Outcome:* The study tour experience and its resulting publication are not meant solely as ends in themselves, but will serve as a catalyst for developing international connections and exchange of findings across countries and for introducing an element of sustainability into the program. Potential applications of findings may also be expected domestically as well as regionally, with possible global implications. Through this international, interdisciplinary framework, the APRU Fellows program will create an intellectually stimulating environment in which all participants can both contribute and learn. Pacific Rim research will be fostered and a scholarly

network developed.

- *Program Cost:* Estimated cost is a maximum of \$6000 per Fellow (not including airfare) for the 23-day long program.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Seminar Series Theme: "The Pacific Rim in the 21st Century"

1999 Seminar Sub-theme: "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Asian Economic Downturn"

Countries/Host Institutions:

U.S.A. - University of California, Berkeley

Japan - Kyoto University

Thailand - Chulalongkorn University

Timing: July 24 - August 15, 1999

APRU Fellows Selection: APRU member institutions to select leading junior faculty in various academic fields. Statement of research interest regarding the 1999 seminar sub-theme to accompany participant information.

Disciplinary Settings: Economics, business, environmental, political, educational, societal/community contexts determined by APRU host institutions, in consultation with The Asia Foundation and the APRU Secretariat.

Suggested Program Approach:

APRU members select their Fellows by May 15.

U.S. - Week I: Fellows arrive in San Francisco on July 24 for beginning of program on July 25, hosted by the University of California, Berkeley.

Orientation on July 26 at The Asia Foundation to welcome APRU Fellows and discuss program approach. Participants will be organized into three subgroups of eight to nine members who will be rotated during each country visit to encourage professional and collegial interaction among all of the Fellows with one another. The orientation will also provide opportunity for the participants to become acquainted and to begin identifying common research interests.

- Introductory seminar discussions to be held at organizing host institution, i.e., University of California, Berkeley, on the Asian economic crisis and its various sectoral implications, e.g., for U.S. business, US-Asia economic/trade, US-Asia relations, etc. Entrepreneurship, technological innovation, the social consequences of Asia's economic decline, and allied topics could be part of these discussions.

- Field site visits synchronized with seminar discussions could include Silicon Valley, the Asian Bay Area business sector and social service organizations, the Port of Oakland, the World Trade Commission in Sacramento, etc., to explore the impact of the crisis on business and trade, its social costs to local communities, and its broader consequences for California as the U.S.' most populous state.
- In addition to informal discussions during the week, participants in each subgroup to conduct debriefing at week's end, including discussion of possible topics relevant to the program issues covered for research papers to be produced within six months of the end of the seminar.
- *Japan - Week II:* Fellows arrive in Kyoto on August 1 for beginning of second week's program on August 2, hosted by Kyoto University.
- Discussions with various specialists and practitioners will focus on Japan's economic downturn and incipient recovery from disciplinary perspectives identified above, using seminar/field visit format followed in week one.
- Japan's key economic role in Asia and the impact of its economic downturn domestically and regionally will be considered.
- Participants will again be divided into three subgroups, whose composition will differ from the membership of the first week's subgroups.
- *Thailand - Week III:* Fellows arrive in Bangkok on August 8 to begin the third and last phase of the study tour. The program in week three, starting on August 9, will be hosted by Chulalongkorn University.
- Thailand will serve as a special case study of the Asian economic downturn. National and regional implications will be considered in the seminar/field visit format followed in weeks one and two.
- Prospects for recovery and reforms in the economic, political, and social landscapes will be discussed.
- Participants again will be reconstituted in three subgroups different from the membership of the preceding two subgroups.
- The final session of the third week concludes the study tour with a summary, debriefing, and recommendations for continuing collegial relationships. The Fellows will form three-member teams to collaborate on a research paper. Over the following six months, each team will develop a scholarly piece on a topic relevant to the issues covered in the seminar. The papers will be published in an APRU Fellows Working Papers Series, which will not only serve the interests of the academic community at large, but will also be a means for participants to maintain ongoing contact and professional collaboration beyond their participation in the seminar. This sustained relationship would be in keeping with the APRU Fellows Program's intent to foster a scholarly network among APRU member institutions.

Program Evaluation: Assessment of the program will take into account Fellows'

reactions at the end of the seminar, feedback on program impact approximately three months following the seminar, and again after submission of the research papers. Determining success of the program will include gauging any demonstrable effect on the participating faculty and whether any continuing linkages were established. If participant/host institution feedback on the program is favorable, and the project purposes met, the format will serve as a model for organizing succeeding seminars in the annual summer study tour series for the APRU Fellows Program.